

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of suppressing T cell activation in an animal comprising administering to said animal CD44 protein or peptide or derivative thereof in an amount sufficient to suppress said T cell activation.

5 2. A method of inhibiting CD44-mediated cell adhesion or CD44-monocyte IL1 release in an animal comprising administering to said animal CD44 protein or peptide or derivative thereof in an amount sufficient to inhibit said CD44-mediated cell adhesion or CD44-monocyte IL1 release.

3. A method of treating inflammation in an animal comprising administering to said animal CD44 protein or peptide or derivative thereof in an amount sufficient to reduce said inflammation.

4. A method of preventing or treating HIV infection comprising contacting cells susceptible to HIV infection with an amount of at least one agent that inhibits CD 44-facilitated entry of HIV into such cells sufficient to effect that inhibition.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-CD44 antibody, soluble CD44 and hyaluronate.

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